

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An assembly for forming framing, the assembly comprising:
a plurality of lateral members, each lateral member including a threaded end and an unthreaded end;

5 a plurality of connection members, each connection member comprising an interior member and an exterior member, each of said interior members including a threaded aperture for threadably receiving the threaded end of one of said lateral members and an unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving the unthreaded end of another of said lateral members, said exterior member including a first aperture sized to receive the threaded end of said one of said lateral members and a second aperture sized to receive the unthreaded end of said
10 another of said lateral members;

wherein upon assembly, said first aperture of said exterior member is substantially aligned with said threaded aperture of said interior member, and wherein said second aperture of said exterior member is substantially aligned with said unthreaded aperture of said interior member, and wherein a distal surface of said threaded end of each of said lateral
15 members abuts a circumferential surface of said unthreaded end of another of said lateral members, and wherein said lateral members are tightened against one another within said connection members to form the framing.

2. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of connection members comprises four connection members.

3. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon assembly, each of said lateral members is substantially parallel to another of said lateral members, and

wherein each of said lateral members is situated at an angle of about 90 degrees to two other of said lateral members.

4. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lateral members have a substantially circular cross section, and wherein said first and second apertures in said exterior member are substantially circular.

5. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said unthreaded apertures of said interior members comprise slots.

6. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said unthreaded apertures of said interior members comprise circular openings.

7. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of lateral members are substantially equal in length.

8. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of lateral members are substantially identical in structure, and wherein said plurality of connection members are substantially identical in structure.

9. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein each interior member of a connection member is separable and insertable within said exterior member of said connection member.

10. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of lateral members comprises a first set of four rods.

11. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first set of four rods are substantially equal in length.

12. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein a first subset of two rods of said first set of four rods are substantially equal in length, and a second subset of two rods of said first set of four rods are substantially equal in length, and wherein said first subset of two rods is different in length than said second subset of two rods.

13. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 10, further comprising at least a second set of four rods at a different level than said first set of four rods.

14. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein said second set of said four rods are interconnected to said first set of four rods using the interior members.

15. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein said second set of said four rods are interconnected to said first set of four rods using the exterior members.

16. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein said second set of said four rods are interconnected to said first set of four rods using more than four interconnected exterior members.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) An assembly for forming furniture framing, the assembly comprising:

a first rod, a second rod, a third rod and a fourth rod, each of said first, second, third and fourth rods including a threaded end and an unthreaded end;

5 a first corner connector including a first interior member and a first exterior member, said first interior member including:

a threaded aperture for threadably receiving said threaded end of said first rod; and

10 an unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said second rod;

wherein within said first interior member a longitudinally distal surface of said threaded end of said first rod contacts a lateral surface of said unthreaded end of said second rod, and wherein a longitudinally distal surface of said unthreaded end of said second rod contacts a back surface of said first interior member or a back surface of said first exterior member;

15 said first exterior member including:

a first unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving an unthreaded portion of said first rod, wherein said unthreaded portion of said first rod is situated longitudinally proximal and adjacent said threaded end of said first rod; and

20 a second unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said second rod;

wherein said first interior member is situated within a perimeter surface of said first exterior member;

25 a second corner connector including a second interior member and a second exterior member, said second interior member including:

a threaded aperture for threadably receiving said threaded end of said second rod; and

an unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said third rod;

wherein within said second interior member a longitudinally distal surface of said threaded end of said second rod contacts a lateral surface of said unthreaded end of said third rod, and wherein a longitudinally distal surface of said unthreaded end of said third rod contacts a back surface of said second interior member or a back surface of said second exterior member;

said second exterior member including:

a first unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving an unthreaded portion of said second rod, wherein said unthreaded portion of said second rod is situated longitudinally proximal and adjacent said threaded end of said second rod; and

a second unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said third rod;

wherein said second interior member is situated within a perimeter surface of said second exterior member;

a third corner connector including a third interior member and a third exterior member, said third interior member including:

a threaded aperture for threadably receiving said threaded end of said third rod; and

an unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said fourth rod;

wherein within said third interior member a longitudinally distal surface of said threaded end of said third rod contacts a lateral surface of said unthreaded end of said fourth rod, and wherein a longitudinally distal surface of said unthreaded end of said fourth rod contacts a back surface of said third interior member or a back surface of said third exterior member;

said third exterior member including:

a first unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving an unthreaded portion of said third rod, wherein said unthreaded portion of said third rod is situated longitudinally proximal and adjacent said threaded end of said third rod; and a second unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said fourth rod;

wherein said third interior member is situated within a perimeter surface of said third exterior member;

a fourth corner connector including a fourth interior member and a fourth exterior member, said fourth interior member including:

a threaded aperture for threadably receiving said threaded end of said fourth rod; and

an unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said first rod;

wherein within said fourth interior member a longitudinally distal surface of said threaded end of said fourth rod contacts a lateral surface of said unthreaded end of said first rod, and wherein a longitudinally distal surface of said unthreaded end of said first rod contacts a back surface of said fourth interior member or a back surface of said fourth exterior member;

said fourth exterior member including:

a first unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving an unthreaded portion of said fourth rod, wherein said unthreaded portion of said fourth rod is situated longitudinally proximal and adjacent said threaded end of said fourth rod; and a second unthreaded aperture for slidably receiving said unthreaded end of said first rod;

wherein said fourth interior member is situated within a perimeter surface of said fourth exterior member; and

wherein said first, second, third and fourth rod members substantially form a rectangular or square shape when interconnected using said first, second, third and fourth corner connectors.

23. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 22, wherein said first, second, third, and fourth rods have a substantially circular cross section, and wherein said first and second unthreaded apertures in said first, second, third and fourth exterior members are substantially circular.

24. (Original) A method of assembling furniture framing, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. inserting an unthreaded end of a first rod into a first unthreaded aperture of an exterior member of a first connection member and through an unthreaded aperture of an interior member of said first connection member;
- b. inserting a threaded end of a second rod into a second unthreaded aperture of said exterior member of said first connection member and rotating said second rod to thread said second rod into a threaded aperture of said interior member of said first connection member, wherein a distal surface of said threaded end of said second rod abuts a circumferential surface of said unthreaded end of said first rod;
- c. inserting an unthreaded end of a third rod into a first unthreaded aperture of an exterior member of a second connection member and through an unthreaded aperture of an interior member of said second connection member;
- d. inserting a threaded end of said first rod into a second unthreaded aperture of said exterior member of said second connection member and rotating said first rod to thread said first rod into a threaded aperture of said interior member of said second connection member, wherein a distal surface of said threaded end of said first rod abuts a circumferential surface of said unthreaded end of said third rod;
- e. inserting an unthreaded end of a fourth rod into a first unthreaded aperture of an exterior member of a third connection member and through an unthreaded aperture of an interior member of said third connection member;
- f. inserting a threaded end of said third rod into a second unthreaded aperture of said exterior member of said third connection member and rotating said third rod to thread said third rod into a threaded aperture of said interior member of said third connection member, wherein a distal surface of said

threaded end of said third rod abuts a circumferential surface of said unthreaded end of said fourth rod;

- g. inserting an unthreaded end of said second rod into a first unthreaded aperture of an exterior member of a fourth connection member and through an unthreaded aperture of an interior member of said fourth connection member;
- h. inserting a threaded end of said fourth rod into a second unthreaded aperture of said exterior member of said fourth connection member and rotating said fourth rod to thread said fourth rod into a threaded aperture of said interior member of said fourth connection member, wherein a distal surface of said threaded end of said fourth rod abuts a circumferential surface of said unthreaded end of said second rod;
- i. tightening each of said first, second, third and fourth rods.

25. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said tightening step comprises partially rotating each of said first, second, third and fourth rods until said framing is substantially stable.